

## Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)



**Site Description:** The SPR is the world's largest crude oil stockpile. SPR was mandated by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, and by the comprehensive energy plans of all Presidents since 1975. The SPR is under the control of the President of the United States. Currently the SPR consists of four large underground storage facilities in salt domes along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana that are capable of stockpiling 680 million barrels of crude oil. The sites are Bryan Mound and Big Hill in Texas, and West Hackberry and Bayou Choctaw in Louisiana. Weeks Island, formerly a storage site in Louisiana, is being decommissioned due to geologic instability. All of the recoverable oil has been transferred to other sites and the storage caverns filled with brine.

**Mission:** In recognition of the nation's dependence on imported crude oil and petroleum products, SPR's mission is to reduce the nation's vulnerability to economic, national security, and foreign policy consequences if the crude oil supply is interrupted; discourage other nations from attempting supply disruptions; and assure the crude oil supply in the event of a disruption from political, military, or natural causes.

**Management:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office for Fossil Energy (FE) is the program secretarial office for SPR. Within FE, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for SPR has been delegated the responsibility for overall management of the SPR program. The SPR Project Management Office (PMO), located in New Orleans, Louisiana, manages and operates the four storage sites, one marine terminal, and three DOE pipeline systems. Major contractors to SPR include DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations Company (DM), the management and operating contractor; Walk Haydel and Associates, architect-engineering services; Sandia National Laboratory, geotechnical services; and Critique, management and technical support services. Various other contractors provide services for crude oil transportation and terminalling, construction, security systems, and control systems. The SPR PMO and its sites employ approximately 114 DOE and 754 DM personnel.

**Budget:** The annual budgets for FY 1999 and FY 2000 are \$160 million (adjusted) and \$159 million (requested), respectively.

**Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Implementation Status:** DM completed implementation of ISM, issued an SPR PMO-approved system description in FY 1998, and prepared a functions, responsibilities, and authorities manual (FRAM), which was included in the Fossil Energy Headquarters FRAM. Verification was conducted jointly by DM and the SPR PMO, along with oversight by FE and the SPR Program Office, throughout FY 1999.

**Office of Oversight Status:** The Office of Oversight conducted a safety management evaluation of the SPR during May and June of 1996, and rated the overall safety management program as strong. However, eight opportunities for improvement were identified in requirements implementation and assessment programs. The report, *Independent Oversight Evaluation of Environment, Safety, and Health Programs at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve* (June 1996), contains the details of the evaluation. As reported in the Corrective Action Tracking System (CATS) database, the SPR PMO developed a corrective action plan and has implemented all corrective actions.

**Significant Events:** No significant environment, safety, and health (ES&H) related events have been reported for SPR over the past two years.

### Key Facilities

Facility Name	Mission /Status	Principal Hazards
Bryan Mound Storage Facility	Crude oil storage capacity of 226 million barrels/Operational	Crude oil releases; potential fires
Big Hill Storage Facility	Crude oil storage capacity of 160 million barrels/Operational	Crude oil releases; potential fires
West Hackberry Storage Facility	Crude oil storage capacity of 219 million barrels/Operational	Crude oil releases; potential fires
Bayou Choctaw Storage Facility	Crude oil storage capacity of 75 million barrels/Operational	Crude oil releases; potential fires
Weeks Island Storage Facility	Decommissioning	Crude oil releases
St. James Terminal (under commercial lease to UNICAL)	Fill and drawdown/Operations	Crude oil releases; potential fires

**For the SPR ES&H Director's Office, contact (504) 734-4277**